The Member also suggested the formation of an Executive Council of five Members with the Dewan as President, two-fifths of the Members being non-official elected Members.

Dean's reply.—Noted.

145. Formation of Taluk Boards.

Mr. V. Ramakrishna Panikkar (Member, T. I. C., Haripad) said that, in 1087, there were Education Boards. They ceased to exist because of defective organization. They had been now revived under the name of Educational Service Committees. Though nothing tangible had been achieved by them till now, those Committees were useful in providing buildings for schools, maintaining and repairing them, inducing people to send their children to schools and watching the work and private conduct of teachers who should be living examples to the pupils. The clamour for schools was on the increase and the expenditure on education was also going up. That being so, it would be well to constitute Boards for at least the Lower Grade Vernacular schools.

There was a good deal of work to be done under Agriculture which could be carried out by an organised body.

Under public works and sanitation also, much useful work could be done. Every year, Members of the Assembly had been representing the necessity for roads, bridges, buildings and other public works. It was impossible for Government to accede to all those requests.

The *Tadasthars* in the various *pakuthies* would be of great use in the administration of Civil and Criminal Justice.

For public works of the kind referred to above, it was highly necessary to form District, Taluk and Pakuthi Boards and also levy a local cess. There should be at least two non-official Members for each *pakuthi* on the Taluk Board, the Tahsildar being made President.

Dewan's reply.—The suggestions of the Member will receive careful consideration in connection with the contemplated legislation for Taluk Boards.

146. Want of uniformity in the unit of grain measure in Nanjanad.

Mr. M. Sivathanu Pillai (Member, Agastiswaram Taluk) said that, in the rules under the Weights and Measures Regulation, dated 1st June 1912, it was declared that a Nanjanad *marakkal* was equivalent to 4·4583 *edangalies*. A *kotta* had been held to be equivalent to 9 *paras* and $3\frac{5}{8}$ *edangalies* according to the standard settlement *para*. The adoption of the above rates worked hardship on the Nanjanad ryots. The original equivalent of the *kotta* in Nanjanad was 9 *paras* and $3\frac{5}{8}$ *edangalies* according to the *vengalapara*. The cubical contents of a *vengalapara* were, according to the Member, 640 cubic inches. At the Settlement, however, the standard unit, namely, an *edangali* of 80 cubic inches, was presumably intended to apply to Nanjanad as well. A *kotta* was recognized in all Government transactions as equivalent to 9 *paras* and $3\frac{5}{8}$ *edangalies* the *para* being fixed at 800 cubic inches by Royal Proclamation. In 1906, the grain tax was abolished and Dewan Mr. Madhava Rao's commutation scheme came into force with effect from 1st Chingom 1082. The ryots of Nanjanad put in a petition to the Government praying for definite orders as to the rate at which the paddy tax paid by them should be converted into money under the G. O. abolishing payment in kind. The Government directed an enquiry into the matter as a result of which it was laid down in Government Order No. 15436/R6634, dated 13th September 1906, that 8 *paras* and $6\frac{1}{2}$ *edangalies* of the standard of 800 cubic inches per *para*, which was the equivalent of the smallest of the then existing *kottas*, should be adopted as the rate of conversion for commuting the paddy tax into money in the taluks of Tovala and Agastiswaram. The above arrangement was, however, not made applicable to the *Sripandaravagai* dues. Those dues had to be paid at the old equivalent of 9 *paras* and $3\frac{5}{8}$ *edangalies* per *kotta* according to the old *vengalapara*. The Member said that the above arrangement worked real hardship on the ryots especially in the matter of paying up the dues to the *Sripandaravagai*. For, according to the old practice, the ryots had only to pay at the rate of 9 *paras* and $3\frac{5}{8}$ *edangalies* per *para* of 640 cubic inches as the equivalent of

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one *kotta*, while, under the new arrangement, they were required to pay the *Sripandara-vagai* dues at the rate of 9 *paras* and $3\frac{5}{8}$ *edangalies*, per para of 800 cubic inches as the equivalent of a *kotta* of paddy. In other words, they had to pay more under the new arrangement, which virtually meant a raising of the dues. The Member said that the Government also incurred loss by the new arrangement, as they had to pay the dues to certain Devaswoms at the new equivalent.

He said that the rate of 8 *paras* and $6\frac{1}{2}$ *edangalies* fixed by the Government for the realisation of the Sirkar tax was also not fair as the real equivaleut of a *kotta* was only 7 *paras* and $3\frac{3}{4}$ *edangalies*. Comparing the assessment on an acre of first class land at Nanjanad and at Edanad, the Member said that the assessment in Nanjanad was Rs. 5 more than that at Edanad and that the inequality was the result of fixing 8 *paras* and $6\frac{1}{2}$ *edangalies* as the equivalent of *kotta* in Nanjanad. The grievances of the ryots had been represented at several sessions of the Assembly but no adequate relief had been granted as yet.

The Member prayed that the real capacity of the Nanjanad *marakkal* and the quantity of paddy for a *kotta* of 21 *marakkals* be ascertained correctly and fixed in terms of *paras* and *edangalies* and that a new and reasonable measure for the *marakkal* be introduced in Nanjanad.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

147. Extension of the Railway to Cape Comorin.

Mr. D. Francis (Member, Nominated) in urging the need for the extension of train service to Cape Comorin suggested that a limited Company might be formed with the Special Officer, Industrial Survey, as President and the Registrar, Co-operative Societies, as Secretary, the Government taking shares up to a maximum of half the total number. The value of each share was to be Rs. 15. If Government doubted the utility of the line proposed and of its financial success, a Committee of official and non-official gentlemen might be appointed to investigate the subject.

Mr. Ponniah Nadar (Member, Nominated) said that the extension of the Railway from Trivandrum to the Cape was greatly wished for by the people of Nanjanad. Though the main work could not be taken up owing to the financial stress caused by the war, yet, all preliminary operations such as surveying, levelling, etc., could be finished for the present, so that the work of construction of the line might be commenced soon after the war.

Dewan's reply.—Noted.

148. Suggestions for the amelioration of the present condition of Mahomedans.

Mr. S. Adam Sait (Member, Nominated) urged the need for the following:—

(1) the appointment of a Mahomedan Inspector of schools;
(2) the employment of Mahomedan teachers in schools;
(3) the award of not less than 15 scholarships to Mahomedan boys for spreading English education of the High School grade and 3 scholarships for Collegiate education;

(4) the adequate representation of Mahomedans in the Public Service and the better encouragement of those already in the service;

(5) the admission of Mahomedan students in the Caste Hindu Hostel;

(6) the appointment of a member of the community to the Legislative Council;

(7) the increase of the number of Mahomedan Members in the Assembly from 4 to 8; and

(8) the recognition of the following Mahomedan holidays as general holidays, *viz.*, (*a*) *Bar-wafat* (*b*) *Ramzan* (*c*) *Bak-rid* and (*d*) *Moharam 10th*.

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